



TEACHER'S GUIDE

BERDIANSK - A UKRAINIAN CITY AT THE CROSSROADS OF WINDS

PREPARE TO READ

Pick activities that work best for your students. Use English or the native language.

1. Get Students' Attention

Create interest in the story by talking about seaside, port towns.

- Show students photos of seascapes in a presentation, on the interactive whiteboard or projection screen. Examples: open sea, ships, beaches, amusement parks, lighthouses, etc.
- Show beach souvenirs: shells, sea shells, figures of sea fish, compass, etc.
- Ask, "What are souvenirs? Have you been to a beach? Why are beach towns popular?"

2. Guess What Happens (Predict): Part 1

Begin this two-part activity before reading and finish after reading or listening to the story.

- Introduce some content from the story.
 - Show some images of Berdiansk.
 - Examine the title of the story and a short extract from the story.
 - Give the students a very short amount of time to scan the story (read quickly).
 - Read just the beginning of the essay together.
- Then ask, "What do you think the essay is about? How do you think the story will unfold?"

3. Connect to Background Knowledge

Find out what your students know about Ukraine. Tell students they will learn about the Ukrainian city of Berdiansk, located on the coast of the Azov Sea. They will also learn about this city's exciting history and culture from ancient times to the present. They will practice reading and analysis skills as well as learn new words.

Ask students questions. Here are some suggestions:

- Do you have a favorite city?
- Where is it located?
- What events and stories is this city associated with for you?
- What do you know about Ukraine?
- Do you know anything about Russia's attack on the territory of Ukraine and the occupation of Ukrainian lands?

BACKGROUND: Ukraine is a country in south-eastern Europe. The country has a population of 48 million people. The Black and Azov Seas wash the south of Ukraine. Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe. In 2014, Russia attacked sovereign Ukraine and occupied the Crimean peninsula and some land in the east of the country. In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine and seized land in the south and east of the country. Fighting continues on the territory of Ukraine. Ukrainian soldiers are bravely defending their land. In the occupied territories, Russia has established an occupation regime and violates human rights).

4. Know-Wonder-Learned Chart: Part 1

This two-part activity helps to organize and visually show a student's learning process.

1. Divide a sheet of paper into three sections. At the top, label them K (What do you Know?) W (What do you Wonder about?) and L (What have your Learned?) Or you can print a copy of the K-W-L chart located on page 11.
2. In the K-Know column, students write what they know about Ukraine or Berdiansk.
3. In the W-Wonder column, students write about what they want to know. What do they wonder or want to know about this seaside port town?
4. Leave the L-Learned column empty. Fill this after reading and working with the text.
5. After completing the chart, students can share with the class how their thinking changed about the topic or what they learned. Teachers can post their charts in the classroom.

READ & LISTEN

In this phase, students read or listen to the text. Use activities that fit your students.

1. Read Aloud

Introduce the essay's topic and author to students. "Today, we will read an essay by Anita Vydnokrai from Ukraine about a seaside resort town."

- Ask them to define an essay. (An essay is a short piece of writing that expresses an author's thoughts about an issue. Essays can be classified as non-fiction literature.)
- Continue: Today we will hear from a witness of unusual events. Let's listen to the text and find some exciting information about the Ukrainian city of Berdiansk.
- Print and hand out the essay. The teacher can read it out loud or play the audio recording.
- Then, students read the text aloud with the teacher's help.
- If necessary, students can read the text a third time independently.

2. Listen & Respond

- Tell students: As you read the text, you will hear words or phrases that express different feelings of the author and characters in the essay – feeling like regret, sadness, or joy.
- Raise your hand when you hear feeling words or phrases.

Feeling Words/Phrases: relaxation, gain energy, resilience and faith, admiration, love, fell in love, desperate, moderation and recklessness, faith, pride, creative impulses, humor, hope, courage, love for the homeland (Can students find others?)

3. Grammar: Finding & Marking Past Tense Verbs

- Print out the essay and give to students. Or show the essay on a screen and have students write down the past tense verbs as they listen or read the essay.
- As students read the essay, have them mark all the past tense verbs.
- Write out the verbs in the past tense from the essay or copy them from the screen.

Past Tense Verbs: combined, was founded, admired, ordered, disappeared, turned, was named, coexisted, dominated, depicted, proposed, saved, climbed, located, attacked, destroyed, were damaged, appeared, died, were killed, established, banned, tortured, filled, unconquered

RESPOND

In this phase, students explore the text more deeply.

1. Check comprehension by answering specific questions.

- Where is the city of Berdiansk located?
- What ancient peoples inhabited the land on which Berdiansk stands?
- What legend does the author of the essay tell about the creation of the city's name?
- What is the significance of the city's division into two distinctive worlds?
- What famous people were born in Berdiansk? What did they become famous for?
- What interesting locations in Berdiansk are mentioned in the essay's text?
- What events took place in Berdiansk during the war with Russia?
- What page in the city's history are the names of Valeriy Chibineev, Nikita Khanganov, and Tigran Hovhannisyian associated with?
- What kinds of feelings of Ukrainians under Russian occupation does this essay explore?
- How does the author of the essay feel about the Russian occupation?

2. Identify Parts of the Essay: Hamburger Graphic Organizer

- Put students in pairs.
- Print and hand out the Hamburger graphic organizer found on page 12. Or draw the graphic on the whiteboard for the students and have them draw their own.
- Go over the parts of the “hamburger” and the parts of the essay they represent:
 - **Topic:** top slice of bread or bun
 - **Main Idea:** burger or veggie patty
 - **Supporting Details:** cheese, lettuce, tomato, ketchup, onion, pickles...
 - **One Sentence Summary:** bottom slice of bread or bun
- Below is a sample of possible answers:
 - **Topic:** The Ukrainian city of Berdiansk is fascinating for its history and culture.
 - **Main Idea:** Ancient history and traditions, strength of spirit, courage, and faith in victory helped the residents of Berdiansk in the occupation.

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- **Supporting details:** The city's legend is an interesting story about the origin of the name "Berdiansk." The city's monuments reflect the sense of humor of its citizens. The city's famous people are part of its history.
- **One sentence summary:** Berdiansk is a city at the corner of the winds that fascinates with its history, culture, and citizens.

3. Make a One-Page Reaction Journal

A one-page journal represents key information. It can help with memory and comprehension.

- Create a one-page reaction journal based on the essay. Use pictures, symbols, and labels.
- You can work under one of the following headings (or choose your own):
 - Five Most Powerful Quotes From The Essay
 - Five Most Important Questions About The Essay.
 - Five Most Vivid Images Of The City
 - Five Significant Events in Berdiansk's History

4. Guess What Happens (Predict): Part 2 – Revisit

If you used this prediction activity during Prepare to Read to section, return to it after reading/listening to the story.

- Read some of the answers from the students and review their responses:
 - Who was right or close with their predictions?
 - What surprises did they learn?

5. K-W-L Chart: Part 2 - Revisit

Students who filled out a K-W-L chart in the Prepare to Read phase, can finish it now.

- Have students return to their K-W-L chart.
- They should now complete the L-Learned column.
- Discuss what students learned.
 - Did they learn about anything they mentioned in the W-Want to Know column?
 - Did they learn something that corrects what they thought they knew?
 - Compare their chart with a partner. How are their L columns similar? Different?
 - You can also write these results on the board as a whole class activity.
 - Teachers can post the charts in the classroom.

6. Discuss the Story

Ask students questions about the essay. Encourage students to ask their own questions.

- What did you like about the essay? What do you not like?
- What made you think? What surprised you?
- What parts would you like to read again? What would you like to know more about

EXPAND

1. Work With New Words

Students work in pairs for this vocabulary activity.

- Write down six new words from the essay.
- Using an online dictionary or audio from the story, learn the pronunciation and write down its phonetic transcription.
- Come up with a question for each new word.
- Use a table to organize your work. Below is an example.

New Word	Phonetic Entry	Definition	Question
lighthouse	['laɪthaʊs]	A tower with a powerful light that is built on or near the shore to guide ships away from danger	What lighting fixtures are a symbol of Berdiansk?

- Get together with another pair and exchange your tables with the new words. Ask the other pair to learn the new words. Check each other's work.
- The teacher can display the materials created by the students in the classroom.

2. Extend the Story

To extend the story, students can choose from the following two suggestions:

- Write a continuation of the story. Will the residents of Berdiansk wait for the de-occupation of their city and the establishment of justice? Who will help them, and how? Do you know of any countries or international organizations that are helping Ukraine?
- Write a letter to the author of the essay, Anita Vydokrai. What would you like to wish or advise her and those under occupation? What would you like to ask her?

3. Create a Travel Poster

Students will make a travel poster based on the essay.

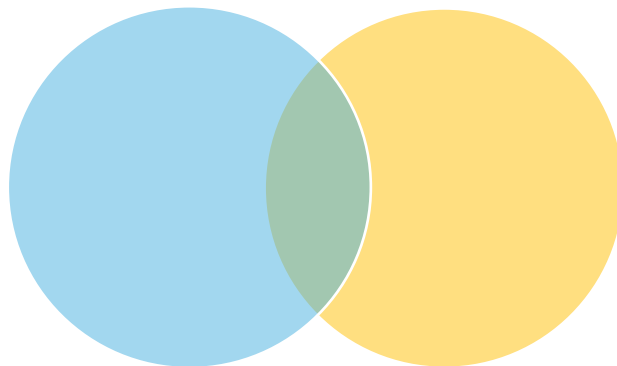
- Using pencils and pens, have groups of students create a poster to invite tourists to Berdiansk. Provide large sheets of paper.
- Tell about the most exciting places on it and draw the most striking locations (lighthouses, monuments, the sea, etc.).
- Add quotes and details from the essay.
- Hang the posters in the classroom. Take pictures and post on social media.
- If students made digital posters, they can display on social media.

4. Work with a Venn diagram.

With a Venn diagram, students identify the similarities and differences in the life of schoolchildren in occupied Berdiansk and non-occupied cities of Ukraine during the Russian-Ukrainian war.

- Students can draw their own Venn diagram circles. (sample below)
- They use the “materials for reference” section (below) to fill in the Venn diagram. Can they think of other items to include in the Venn diagram?
- In the part of the circles that do not overlap, write down information about how the materials differ. In the shared space, write down the same or similar things.

Schoolchildren of the Occupied City of Berdiansk (left circle) and Non-Occupied Cities Of Ukraine (right circle) During the Russian-Ukrainian War



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Material for reference:

- Local schools teach Russian curricula
- Education in Ukrainian schools only online
- The Ukrainian language and history of Ukraine are banned
- Dull childhood under occupation
- Enemies kill children
- Study under Ukrainian programs
- Study offline and online
- Study Ukrainian subjects
- Communicate with classmates and teachers
- Are protected by the state
- Suffering from Russian aggression
- Patriots of Ukraine
- Striving for the liberation of Ukraine from aggressors and victory over Russia

ESSAY

Berdiansk is a Ukrainian city on the northern coast of the Azov Sea

In peacetime, the resort city attracts people from all over the world who come to gain energy from the sun and the sea. During the war, it became a city of resistance, a place of hope for Ukrainians who found themselves under Russian occupation.

Berdiansk was founded in 1827, but according to archaeologists, life here was in full swing in the days of the Scythians, Greeks, Polovtsians, and Nogai. Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, admired the lands while recalling his travels along the Azov Sea.

Townpeople love to tell the story of the origin of the city's name. Berda means "god-given, rich" in Turkic. At first, Berda was the name of a local river, and then the city was named after it, Berdiansk.

But the story goes back to the time of the Nogai, a Turkish ethnic group, which inhabited the southern part of Ukraine in the 1500s. An old nomadic leader named Berdy fell in love with a beautiful horsewoman, Tanai, who did not return his love and ran away to throw herself into the sea. The nomadic leader ordered a path made out of stones in the sea to catch the fleeing horsewoman. Tanai disappeared from the horizon. She did not drown but turned into a

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white-winged seagull. Now, a figure of a seagull girl is installed near the Museum of History of Berdiansk.

During peacetime, visitors come to the city during the summer and enjoy its many bars, discos, and cafes. There is the Safari Zoo with 140 species of animals and Aqualand, an entertainment complex. And its spiritual life includes Orthodox, Catholic and German Lutheran churches.

The most famous person born in Berdiansk is Volodymyr Khavkin, a 19th-century scientist who developed vaccines against plague and cholera. His contemporaries were Opanas Slastion, the artist who depicted Ukrainian history and life, and Trokhym Zinkivsky, who wanted to revive the Ukrainian nation.

One of the city's landmarks is the main building of Berdiansk University. Built in 1872, the building looks like the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry from the Harry Potter books. The medieval-style detail and red brick towers make it seem like wizards really study there.

The city has monuments to summer residents who cultivated the land and the Nursing Bull who saved locals from starvation during World War II. There is a statue of a plumber climbing out of a manhole, a symbol of human vices, and the famous “wishing chair,” where Ukrainians undoubtedly wish for victory against invaders.

The Upper Lighthouse, built in 1877, is one of the oldest lighthouses in Ukraine. It is still shining into the Azov Sea waiting for ships to return to the harbor. During peacetime, merchant ships flew the flags of many countries docked in Berdiansk, the largest port on the Azov Sea.

Russian troops have occupied the port city since February 2022. The city, known for its beaches and beautiful sunsets, is now filled with Russian troops and their military equipment.

In April 2022, [RFE/RL reported](#) that “Russian personnel had occupied the government buildings and transformed them into their bases of operation... There was no natural gas or mobile phone coverage. Food, medicine, and fuel were in short supply. Explosions could be heard in the distance, and the occupying forces had appointed a ‘commandant’ from among their military ranks to act as mayor.”

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The Russian military also took over schools, churches and businesses. The Ukrainian language is banned and people are being tortured.

Ukrainians, however, continued to fight and several died as a result. Valeriy Chibineev, known as Karakurt, died near Gostomel on his 34th birthday while performing a special mission. And teenagers, Nikita Khanganov and Tigran Ohannisyan, were killed by the Russian military for their pro-Ukrainian position.

Last May, Ukrainian forces destroyed several Russian warships in the port. In a statement, Ukrainian armed forces said: “In the Azov operational zone,... a large landing ship *Saratov* was destroyed during the attack on the occupied Berdiansk port.” The attack also damaged two other Russian vessels, *Caesar Kunikov* and *Novocherkassk*. Satellite images [confirmed](#) the sinking of the *Saratov*.

TOPIC			Name: _____
			Date: _____
KNOW	WONDER	LEARNED	
K	W	L	

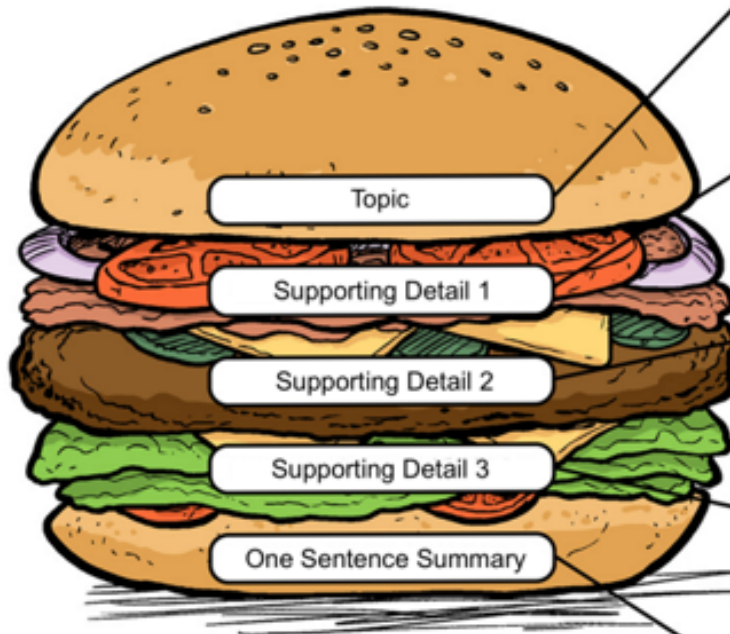
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The Hamburger Summary

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com>



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